

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-6 are in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC §112. Applicants have amended claim 1 to omit the term "minimal" which was objected to by the Examiner. Claim 1 now recites that at least three weld points are formed. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 9, lines 10-11. Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify that the combustion depression is formed during the forging process. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 10, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 6 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over PCT WP 02/06658 and/or Campbell, and rejected claims 2 and 3 over these references and further in view of Ricaud et al. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected over WO 02/06658 in view of Campbell and further in view of Rudd. Applicants respectfully traverse.

WO 02/06658 discloses a process of making a piston head by hot forging two parts previously welded together. In spite of the statement that the two parts may be fixed together in any suitable way (page 2, third paragraph, line 2), it suggests to weld the parts together only over the entire surface of their connecting faces, for example by flash butt welding, diffusion bonding or friction welding.

The present invention aligns the two parts in question with respect to their diameters, and fixes the two parts by at least three weld points (see page 9, paragraph 1, line 10). This means that it is no longer necessary to fix the two parts together over the entire surface of their connecting faces.

Campbell does not teach a process by which a piston is formed via the claimed welding process in combination with forging of the piston to achieve a finished piston. Since this process is not taught or suggested by either reference, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 6 are patentable over the prior art.

Rudd discloses a process of forge welding under pressure which is completely different of the fixation of two parts by three or more weld points without application of pressure.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

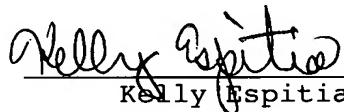
Respectfully submitted,
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